

In the Specification:

Please rewrite the paragraph running from page 2, line 21, to page 3, line 1, as follows:

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To achieve this object, the invention provides an article joining control method for joining articles, carried into and stored in a plurality of auxiliary conveyance paths, from the auxiliary conveyance paths to a main conveyance path conveying articles, ~~characterized in that~~ which when a spacing equal to or greater than a predetermined length is found between articles or between groups of articles being conveyed on the main conveyance path, the stored articles which correspond to the length of the spacing are cut out from the auxiliary conveyance, paths to the main conveyance path characterized in that when the articles have been cut out from each auxiliary conveyance path for joining, a spacing is created on the auxiliary conveyance path prior to next carrying in of articles.